

From: Greg Post
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/31/01 6:34pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am firmly in favor of the proposed settle of the Microsoft Anti-Trust case. As a small business computer consultant, I rely on Microsoft to provide operating systems and applications that work well together. The only thing that I saw Microsoft do wrong was in their dealings with OEMs. OEMs should be free to install whatever operating system they want without fear of any reprisal from Microsoft. The settlement agreement adequately addresses this issue.

There is nothing wrong with any of the Microsoft products in how they present them in an integrated fashion. Yes, they should be complete in the their disclosures of how the operating system works, eg. a complete API disclosure, but the settlement agreement adequately addresses this issue.

In my business I work with a lot of regular users, people who aren't heavy duty technical types but just people who want to get something accomplished with their computer. All of the improvements that I've seen Microsoft make in Windows have been toward the end of making the computer easier to use. The same cannot be said of all other software/hardware vendors although there are exceptions. The chaos in the computer industry that would have resulted without Microsoft's leadership and standard setting (even defacto standards) have been largely mitigated by Microsoft's ability to freely innovate and produce good products. A simple example is CD-RW technology. Before Windows XP, there was no good user interface standard for how to create CD-RW disks. With Windows XP handling the disk creation, all the different user interfaces are gone and users can now easily, intuitively create CD-RW. AND they can help other Windows XP users do the same.

Thank you,

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